

CONFIDENTIALDEPARTMENT OF STATE
OPERATIONS CENTERPOLAND-WORKING GROUP

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Situation Report No. 31

Situation in Poland as of 1700 EST December 26, 1981

Our Embassy reports that (as of 2100 Warsaw time December 26,) Warsaw continues to be very quiet. There is relatively little visible military presence in the capital.

Valentin Falin, First Deputy Chief of the Soviet Communist Party's International Information Department and former Ambassador to Bonn, said on Soviet television that Poland's turmoil is mostly caused by Western interference. Falin stated that 10 people have been killed and 5,000 arrested to date, but that the Polish authorities have exercised restraint in the use of force. According to Falin, the Polish government acted to forestall a bloody coup attempt by Solidarity. In other commentary, TASS accused the U.S. of crudely interfering in Polish affairs and was especially critical of the U.S. decision to suspend food shipments.

Warsaw radio is now saying that Ambassadors Spasowski and Rurarz have betrayed their country by abandoning it at its time of greatest need. The commentary suggests that both men played a part in representing Poland when numerous mistakes were made in economic and social policy.

Wieslaw Gornicki, an adviser to Jaruzelski, told the West German television network ARD that many of the thousands swept up in mass arrests since martial law began would be released "shortly". He did not elaborate. Warsaw radio said steelworkers in Katowice should soon resume normal production.


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State Dept. review completed

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According to a UPI report, Polish Army troops suppressed a strike at the Jastrzebie mine near the Polish-Czech border. A Solidarity activist said that the strike had been broken with more bloodshed than the incident at the Wujek mine where at least seven people were killed. The official Warsaw radio reported that 1,600 miners were still holding out at the Piast mine in Katowice Province, although 20 more miners had abandoned the protest by the end of Christmas day.

Solidarity supporters in Warsaw issued a clandestine newsletter calling for mass passive resistance to the military regime. The newsletter stated that resistance would assist Polish Catholic Church leaders in their ongoing negotiations with Polish communist party officials to seek a political solution to the current impasse. In Poznan and other cities, Polish workers are reportedly using production slowdowns and deliberately defective output as forms of protest.


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